

with oaths and curses. He was abusing Maroof in one measured terms calling him a hypocrite and what not.

The people living in the neighbouring houses were disturbed in their sleep. Maroof bore all the abuse with patience.

In the morning several people came and began to reproach the sick man for his rudeness, and ingratitude and said, "you are taxing the patience of your host too much. We wonder why he does not turn you out at once?" But Maroof stopped them and said, "Gentlemen, my guest is suffering from a painful malady which sometimes has the effect of making him sour. I think that instead of reproaching him you should sympathise with him, because he needs sympathy. I thank you for your interest in my welfare, but I must request you to leave us alone". The neighbours when they heard this, went away wondering at his forbearance and patience.

STORY 16.

CHARITY IN ISLAM.

THE Muslims of old were most happy when they shared what they possessed with those who were less favoured than themselves. A few instances from Islamic history will illustrate this:

1. (Hazrat) Abdullah bin Omar never took his meals without some poor man sharing it with him. Some poor people used to sit by the side of the road leading from his house to the Mosque. After prayers he used to take one of them with him and made him sit with him at table. Of course this did not leave enough food for himself. So one day his wife requested all the poor men to leave the road at prayer-time. When (Hazrat) Abdullah came out of the Mosque and did not find his friends as usual on the road he sent for one of them from his house. His wife had anticipated this and had requested them not to come when called, so none of them came. Upon this (Hazrat) Abdullah went without food.

2. Haris son of Numan had become blind and found it difficult to find the door of his house. To avoid this difficulty he took a thread, one end of which he tied to the leg of his bedstead and the other to the door. Whenever a poor beggar came he took some dates out of a basket which lay near at hand and guided by the thread felt his way to the door and gave them to the beggar.